

REMARKS

Claim 53 is amended. Claims 2 and 15 are cancelled. Claims 91-132 are added. Claims 1, 4-14, 17-51, 53, 55-68 and 89-132 are in the application for consideration.

Dependent claim 53 is amended to be consistent with claim 6, clearly requiring the presence of both Al and Ga. Applicant disagrees that claim 53 as previously presented was indefinite. Regardless, claim 50 requires that the silicon nitride comprising layer include Al, and that the included Al enhance selectivity to the silicon nitride comprising layer during the removing than would otherwise occur in the absence of the Al. Dependent claim 53 does not otherwise change the requirement of claim 50, and thereby claim 53 is not indefinite. For example, and by way of example only, the quantity of Ga included in the silicon nitride comprising layer could be sufficiently low that selectivity due to Ga presence is not enhanced, although a measurable quantity of Ga is present in the silicon nitride comprising layer. Accordingly, claim 53 is not indefinite, and the indefiniteness rejection should be withdrawn. Action to that end is requested.


Added claims 91-132 are each dependent and are patterned after other dependent claims present in the application. Accordingly, no new matter is added thereby.

Each of Applicant's dependent claims should be allowed as depending from allowable base claims, and for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested in the cited art. Action to that end is requested.

This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1-30-04

By: 
Mark S. Matkin
Reg. No. 32,268